

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle fuel tank supporting structure ~~in which supporting a plurality of parallel adjacent fuel tanks (52, 54, 56) are disposed in parallel, the supporting structure comprising:~~

a first fuel tank support supporting a first fuel tank of the plurality of parallel fuel tanks, the first fuel tank having a first axial center a first height above a floor of the vehicle;

a second fuel tank support supporting a second fuel tank of the plurality of parallel fuel tanks, the second fuel tank having a second axial center a second height above the floor of the vehicle, the second height being lower than the first height, the second fuel tank support including a weakened portion; and

a longitudinal movement stopping device, stopping a longitudinal movement by the first fuel tank, and redirecting the longitudinal movement of the first fuel tank to apply a downward biasing force to the second fuel tank, thereby moving the second fuel tank in a downward direction toward the vehicle floor;

~~fuel tank guiding means for, in a case in which a load of a predetermined value or more is applied to the fuel tanks (52, 54, 56), guiding movement of at least one fuel tank (54) that is adjacent to a vehicle body outermost fuel tank (56) downward in a vertical direction of a vehicle body,~~

~~wherein the fuel tank guiding means includes movement preventing means (20) for preventing upward movement of the fuel tank (56), and a weak portion formed at a fuel tank supporting bracket (62) which is disposed beneath the fuel tank (54), and~~

wherein the weak weakened portion breaks in a case in which a load of when the downward biasing force applied to the second fuel tank is equal to or greater than a predetermined value or more is applied.

3. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, wherein the weak weakened portion is cut out formed portions (72,74) of the fuel tank supporting bracket (62) has a width less than a width of other portions of the second fuel tank supporting structure.

4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, wherein the first and second fuel tank supporting structure is set supports are positioned such that fuel can be successively used initially from a vehicle body outer side fuel tank (56) the first fuel tank and subsequently from the second fuel tank.

8. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, further comprising vehicle body left and right rockers (14, 14), wherein[[,]] between the rockers (14, 14), the fuel tanks (52, 54, 56) are disposed so as to respectively extend extending in a vehicle transverse direction.

9. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 2, further comprising falling-out preventing means for structure preventing the fuel tank (54) from completely falling out toward a bottom falling to the floor of the vehicle body.

10. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 9, wherein the falling-out preventing ~~means~~ structure includes a sub frame (40) disposed so as to be separated from the fuel tank (54) toward a lower side of the fuel tank (54), and when the second fuel tank (54) moves downward, the sub frame (40) catches on the fuel tank (54), ~~preventing and can prevent~~ the fuel tank (54) from ~~falling out~~ falling to the floor.

11. (Currently Amended) The fuel tank supporting structure of claim 10, wherein the sub frame (40) includes at least two cross rails (46, 48) which are disposed at the lower side of the fuel tank (54) so as to respectively extend in a vehicle transverse direction, and

a vehicle longitudinal direction dimension between the cross rails (46, 48) is smaller than a diameter of the fuel tank (54).

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, further comprising a third fuel tank support supporting a third fuel tank having a third axial center.

14. (New) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, wherein the longitudinal movement of the first fuel tank is caused by a vehicle collision.

15. (New) The fuel tank supporting system of claim 2, wherein the first and second fuel tank supports are positioned such that fuel can be successively used initially from one of the first and second fuel tanks, and subsequently from the other of the first and second fuel tanks.